

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

V. 5, NO. 18

264

MAY 1, 1954

STEADY PRESSURE FORCES MACY TO MAKE FIRST OFFER

And Still Moving Forward!



— Birthday Editorial — 15 Years of Progress

Fifteen years ago this May, Local I-S moved from the infancy of "organizing committee" to the more adult level of a recognized union about to sign its very first contract with Macy's.

It was in the Spring of 1939 that the workers, inspired by the birth and growth of CIO and aided by the New Deal's Wagner Act, rebelled against working 54 hours a week for \$12 or \$13; against the drop-of-a-fringe after years of faithful service; and against miserable working conditions.

And the rebellion spread! More and more workers in selling, non-selling and offices joined the Union. While continuing their activities to win recognition for their divisional groups, they threw their full weight into the job of completing the organization of non-selling. They knew that organization anywhere in the store meant more security and better conditions for them.

It was only after the first contract was signed that Union members began to come "out in the open". Old timers probably still remember the thrill they felt when our first leaflet was distributed, listing the names of the Union representatives in organized and unorganized sections of the store.

Many timid souls were sure that those whose names had appeared were doomed to be fired. And it was only the fact that nothing at all happened to them that convinced them of the strength of our fledgling union.

Year after year Local I-S fought to raise the standards of the growing number of workers it represented. It may be hard to think of a minimum wage of \$22 a week as a big step forward—but that's what it was when the Union won it in 1944.

(Continued on page 4)



Sam Kovenetsky
15 years of leadership

SO's To Meet For Vote On First Pact

All Saturday-only and Fractional workers who have six months or more of service have been called to a meeting at the Union office on Saturday evening May 1st at 7 PM for the purpose of discussing and acting upon the term of their first contract with Macy's.

President Sam Kovenetsky and Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian said:

"We believe that negotiations have reached the point where the Saturday-onlies and Fractionals have an offer that merits serious consideration.

"If you have six months or more of service be sure to attend the meeting on May 1st. You owe it to yourself to be on hand to discuss and vote on this important piece of business."

Two-and-a-half months of persistent negotiating finally forced Macy's to make a move away from their earlier position that "this is the company's year" and towards the Union's demand for a substantial wage increase and other contract improvements. In his first gesture to show that Macy was at last willing to give some consideration to the needs of their employees, Mr. Fred Fischer estimated that increases in the cost of living had taken 68 cents a week out of every worker's pocket. He then told the negotiators that the company was willing to round that off to an even dollar, but was not prepared to discuss any of the Union's other demands.

Macy Rocks As Union Hits Hard

Thousands of members of Local I-S joined in a vigorous protest against Macy's refusal to make any kind of serious offer thus far in negotiations.

The protest demonstrations, decided upon by the Union's Strategy Committee, hit Macy's hard as the store's Easter business was reaching its peak.

The first organized expression of dissatisfaction with the arrogant refusal of the company to bargain in good faith was in the form of a huge pre-work picketline at Herald Square and at the Branch stores.

All told, more than 3000 workers, many of them on their day off, took their places on the line which was headed by President Sam Kovenetsky and Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian.

Solicitous co-workers had to beg Irene Cooke of the Telephone Order Board to leave the line. Reason for their concern was that "Cookie," as she is fondly known, is close to celebrating her 74th birthday and still had a full day's work to do after the demonstration was over.

For the most part, the huge line

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Not Keyed to Living Cost

Summarizing the significance of the latest development for the Negotiating Committee, President Sam Kovenetsky said:

"Let us carefully examine the facts. First, we know and Macy's knows that the company can insist on arbitration at any time that they choose to do so. We were determined to do all we could to make the company sit and negotiate and we have succeeded in doing that.

Second, let us not fall into the trap of accepting the increased cost of living as the sole formula

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THOUSANDS OF WORKERS, in another display of unity and strength, turned out to demonstrate for higher pay, shorter hours and other gains. All agreed that the response was "terrific."

BRANCH STORE NEWS

PARKCHESTER

A happy occasion will be made doubly so when Mrs. Mariechen Scheeren and her husband celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary. For that occasion will also be marked by a reunion, after 27 years, with Mariechen's mother who is arriving from Hamburg, Germany, on May 9th. She will meet her Grandsons, Lyndon who is 23 and Franz who is 19, as well as Mr. Scheeren, for the first time. Gesundheit! . . . The Nespor's are expecting! I don't mean Kay—I mean Ginger. . . Our heartfelt sympathy to Jack Hodges, Notions Stock, for his great loss . . . Martha Reeth of Notions is back with us full time . . . We all wish a speedy recovery to Lillian Lewkowitz of Infants Wear who is out ill . . . With the Blood Bank drive coming it is time for all of us to begin to give serious thought to signing up and rolling up. We had a fine turnout last year, but we should certainly aim to do even better this time around. There are many in the store who can tell, from personal experience, what the Blood Bank means and just how wonderful it is. The nice part about having such wonderful insurance is that it is so easy to get. Just give one little pint of blood and that's it. And giving is easy! . . . Also of top importance is letting our negotiators know that we are solidly behind them!!



Fay Mattimiro

FLATBUSH



Anne Bowen

This is really Spring—and Spring means Beauty—Love—Marriage—Life. It means a brand new life for the husband of Faye Polazzo (F6). He just arrived in America for the first time and I understand he's already in love with it . . . Marriages—Diane Weil (F10) on July 5th — and Joan Schertzer, daughter of Florence Schertzer (F10). Much happiness to both. Love—Jean Henig (F10) still in love with the same guy after 15 years. Happy anniversary, Jean . . . Beauty—A beautiful brand new Grandson for Louise Cesare (F12) and a Granddaughter for Edith Fraser (Furniture) . . . Belated Birthday greetings to Lucille and Oscar Babb . . . Our love and sympathy goes out to Kay Kogliostro (Vault) in her great sorrow . . . Quite a few changes have been made throughout the store in regard to promotions. If you feel that you have been neglected and are eligible for a promotion, be sure to see your Shop Steward . . . Most people agree that our recent demonstration was a fine success. However, there were many people who should have been out and weren't. Seems a good time to remind ourselves that the Union is ALL of us and rates our full support at all times . . . Are you going on the Mystery Ride on May 2nd. Have you found out where we're going? . . . Will see you.

WHITE PLAINS

Congratulations to Joe Cohen and Bob Philips on their appointment by President Sam Kovenetsky as delegates to the Westchester CIO Council. Both Joe and Bob have served the Union long and well. We know they will do a fine job for us in the Council. The delegates attended their first meeting on April 12. A film by the Moral Rearmament Group was shown. The labor movement has always maintained that morality was on its side in the fight to improve the working and living conditions of those who produce. Unfortunately, we do not accept the thesis that management can be talked into being "nice guys" . . . Mrs. Winters of the Men's Shop just recently became a Grandmother for the FIFTH time. This one an eight pound boy! . . . Reports from the negotiations front show no real progress. Our needs apparently make no impression on Macy's, but certainly our unity must! While negotiations are going on (and forever after) it is urgent that we vigorously defend every clause of our contract. If something doesn't seem to be right—be sure to discuss it with your Steward or a member of the Store Committee. We can't let anything slide by! . . . Let's have all your news. This is everybody's paper, and we give credit where credit is due.



Bill Bittner

JAMAICA

Our congratulations and best wishes to Pat Scholl of J8 Candy. Pat was married on March 27. She is now Mrs. Malandro. Our felicitations to the newlyweds . . . Frances Dichter of the Shoe Bar is happy to report that her Granddaughter is now home from the hospital. That must be why the sun is shining so brightly . . . Evelyn Foraine got four mink skins from her Hubby for Easter—and is she thrilled! . . . Mary Kosinar, JKM, is back with us and feeling fit again. Really nice having you back, Mary . . . Lillian Woodward, who had been out ill for a month, is back and has been promoted to the Curtain Dept., which should help prove that every cloud has a silver lining . . . Michael Minuttilo, Stockman in Stationery, cut his finger and had to have four stitches taken in it. With all that sewing it's nicely on the mend . . . Adela Legon of Housewares (Florence's daughter-in-law) is convalescing after a bad case of pneumonia. Hope you get well and keep well, Adela. . . Mary Edwards ("Everybody's Cousin") is now in Fur Storage . . . Out of the Canteen Fund comes a Dinner-Dance on May 20th at the Commercial House. It could be a very enjoyable evening, so let's go! . . . Howie Brand of Cameras tells us this one: "A word of advice—Don't give it!" . . . So long, now.

FIRST OFFER . . .

(Continued from page 1)

on which our demand is based. We believe that length of service, merit and need must all be considered. We do not believe that the automatic progressions or the company's merit raises meet this situation adequately.

Third, we must recognize the hampering effects of the settlement at Gimbels, where the company bought a four-year extension of agreement for only \$2 with a cost of living re-opening next year and a pension plan which won't even begin to be funded until 1955 and which won't pay off any retirement benefits until long after that.

And last, we should recognize that it is in our interests to keep Macy's talking as long as possible so that we may gain a clear picture of how far they are preparing to go before going to an arbitrator.

Vice President Phil Hoffstein declared that "Macy's will do all they can to put us in the same position as the Gimbels workers. They would love to sew us up to a cost of living formula. Their attitude so far has been that 'things are tough this year, and we're going to

make them tougher next year'.

"Macy's 'get tough' policy, which they have in common with all the rest of big business today, can be stopped, but it is going to be a tough battle."

Added Vice President George Gurian, "As much as Macy's would like to, they can't put us in the same situation as the Gimbels workers because every one of our members is a full partner in all our dealings with the company. That's our big gun—and it's not a secret weapon."

Macy's In a Hurry

In an effort to slow the Union down, Macy's tried to put on the appearance of being in a big hurry. After stalling for months, Mr. Fischer gallantly put the company's offer of a dollar on the table, and then asked the Union's officers and negotiators to reach a speedy decision on whether they want to accept it or go to arbitration.

He had originally said the company was unwilling to give a raise because Macy's believed its stockholders "deserve a break."

He repeated the same story to justify Macy's refusal to discuss



Irene Cooke
nearing 74 and fighting on

the Union's demand for a 35-hour work week with no reduction in take-home pay; a fully automatic wage structure and increases in the rates of straight commission.

Persistent hammering forced Macy's to open the door. The hammering goes on!



TELLING THE WORLD — Hundreds of workers joined in distributing leaflets asking the public to tell Macy's to bargain in good faith. In response to the appeal many shoppers promised to act at once.

Macy Rocks As Union Hits Hard . . .

(Continued from page 1)

which wrapped itself around the 34th Street store was an example of quiet yet grim determination.

There was little of the chanting and shouting that usually marks such occasions. In its place the workers were saying to each other, "This will show Macy's that we are still ready, able and willing to fight!"

Even though the company could still sidestep the demand for negotiations by calling in an arbitrator, the massive demonstration made it clear that the Union and its entire membership wanted Macy's to "Negotiate — Don't Arbitrate!"

Tell the Public

In spite of the all-out participation in the demonstration, Macy's still sat tight. It was obvious that they wanted to see if the storm had passed or whether there was more to come.

They didn't have to wait long. Five days after the picketline had reached millions of New Yorkers by way of TV, Local 1-S hit again. This time more than 100,000 people read a Union leaflet which

told them of Macy's refusal to bargain in good faith. Many of them stopped to tell the distributors that they would lose no time in calling Macy's and demanding that the company deal fairly with its workers.

The response of the reading public was very cheering. It showed that Local 1-S had earned respect and goodwill in its strike last year. Proof of this was seen in the number of people who said, "I know you're not to strike, but should I go into the store?"

In all cases the people were advised that they should by all means shop, but that they should first call Macy's to register their protest. Without exception they promised that they would.

Under the weight of the combined assault Macy's began to give ground. The last leaflet had hardly been handed out when the company called with an invitation to meet again. For developments at

that meeting, see negotiations story on Page 1.

High Praise

Said the Union's officers, "We are tremendously proud of the members of Local 1-S. The wonderful response to the Union's call once again displays the unity and the determination which has been responsible for our gains in the past."

"It is impossible to say in advance if Macy's will respect the demand for honest negotiations. But whatever may come, every worker knows that under the leadership of his Union he did all he could at this time."

"We can all take pride in our readiness to fight when we have to. We owe much of what we have to what we are — and we are a Union team of workers determined to do all we can to continue to improve our living and working standards!"

LOCAL 1-S NEWS

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FREE
LEGAL AID CLINIC
at the
UNION OFFICE
Every Wednesday
5 to 7 P.M.

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Thousands Pledge Support To Blood Bank Drive May 18-21

Thousands of pledgees promised to make May 18, 19, 20 and 21st real red letter days.

Blood Bank rallies in every division of the Herald Square store and in each of the Branch Stores spurred Union members and executive and exempt personnel in the drive to "Build the Bank".

Within an hour of the end of the first rally more than 50% of Drug Order Filling and Return Room Packing had signed up and pledge sheets began pouring in.

Main objective is to secure enough blood for the year-round protection of every employee's husband or wife and children. Also to be protected are the parents of single workers — provided enough blood is deposited during the third week of May.

Last year's drive, which netted 1013 pints, did not make possible a full year of coverage for the unmarried worker's parents. It was not until October that the Blood Bank Committee felt it safe to include this important group.

The fact that the Blood Bank is now drained dry is generally considered as proof that a minimum of 2,000 pints must be donated if present protection is to be provided for the full year.

Next Steps

Even though the initial response to the Pledge Sheets was very good, the Blood Bank Committee is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to have **EVERYONE** sign up.

Early in May an appeal, issued jointly by Local 1-S President Sam Kovenetsky and Macy's President Wheelock Bingham, will be placed in the hands of all employees, urging that they "join us as depositors in the most precious bank known to man."

Another appeal to those who have not yet pledged to appear as volunteers will be made by way of a pay envelope reminder.

Pledge Teams

In all cases, pledges will be sought after by teams of departmental Shop Stewards and Supervisors who will individually approach each and every worker.

The story of the Blood Bank was eloquently told at the store rallies by men and women who have called on the Blood Bank in an hour of need. The Union's officers and administrators, along with company officials, underscored the tremendous job the Bank has done

in saving the lives and bank accounts of countless numbers of Macy workers and members of their family.

The story of how easy it is to give to the Blood Bank is being told by the Steward-Supervisor team. It is they who have been pointing out that a pledge is only a statement of willingness to help build the Blood Bank.

Each person who signs a pledge sheet will be allowed to become a donor only after the most competent of Red Cross doctors and nurses have examined them and found them physically able to do so.

Even people who have suffered from malaria or jaundice will be accepted. The blood they give can now be "fractionated" into valuable parts completely free of their ailment.

On this basis there is no reason for anyone failing to sign a pledge sheet.

Giving is Easy

In a series of interviews last year with people who had given to the Blood Bank for the first time the following reactions were noted:

"I never knew it was so easy. I honestly didn't feel a thing!"

"Those Red Cross nurses are wonderful. The needle in my arm did not hurt as much as when I stick myself in the finger when I'm sewing!"

"I was scared before I started, but now I don't know why. It's painless!"

"If everyone knew how easy it is, everyone would give to the Blood Bank. There's nothing to it!"

Getting is Easy, Too

Getting Blood from the Bank is just as easy as giving to it. In the past year hundreds of pints of blood have been released simply in response to a phone call. No matter how much blood has been needed, the Bank has responded freely.

The dollar value of the Blood released by the Bank during the past year is no less than \$17,500. This tremendous saving in money, plus the confidence that comes of knowing that the Bank is ready to serve, has meant life and peace of mind to many who never dreamed they would ever need it.

You owe it to yourself and your loved ones to Build the Bank. If you haven't yet — sign a pledge TODAY.

Remember—"Blood Means Life—and the Life You Save May Be Your Own."



*if you . . .
your husband
or wife . . .
or children
under 18 . . .*

or parents (if you're single)

**NEED BLOOD
FROM THE BLOOD BANK
all you have to do is
CALL WA 4-4540**

**And Rest Assured That
Local 1-S Will Do the Rest**



BLOOD MEANS LIFE — The Blood Bank Committee meets to map plans for the annual drive. The goal — a minimum of 2000 pints. From Right to Left: Marion Cook, 8th Floor; Helene Roberts, Packing; Marie Troop, Macy Hospital; Vice President George Gurian; Helen Purcell, Red Cross; Mary Meany, Macy's Labor Relations; Jerry Harte, 5th Floor; John Malone, Display; Tony LaSalvia, Jamaica; Dick Pastor Education Director; Vice President Phil Hoffstein; Peggy Cashell, Red Cross.

Congress Drafting Laws Which Toughen T-H, Hamstringing Labor

Spurred on by White House pressure, Congress has begun driving for early passage of bills designed to make Taft-Hartley even more anti-labor and designed to further hamstring workers and their Unions in the fight for higher pay, shorter hours and all-round union security.

Engrossed in a legislative struggle over "who'll get the first bill out," the Republican Senate Policy Committee scheduled debate on Taft-Hartley amendments to begin at the end of April.

The House Labor Committee, which earlier had been heading for a pre-Easter vote, continued to grind out a package containing what CIO called "virulently anti-labor" proposals.

With the one exception of the GOP policy committee action, Taft-Hartley activity in early April was confined to the House. There the Labor Committee, bossed by GOP Chairman McConnell (Pa.), was meeting daily behind closed doors.

Undermine All Labor

Only official reports of the committee's action came from McConnell who daily briefed reporters on what he said had happened during the day.

From these piecemeal reports CIO concluded that T-H amendments, adopted or planned, constitute an "irresponsible and unjustified effort to undermine the effectiveness of unions."

CIO General Counsel Arthur J. Goldberg, in a letter to all members of the House committee, reminded them that it was "fortunately not too late to reconsider." "We are confident," he wrote, that with more mature reflection, you can arrive only at the conclusion that your proposals are neither just nor fair to the millions of loyal patriotic Americans who are the free trade unions of this great country."

On the day Goldberg's letter was made public, the committee voted 16 to 8 in favor of the Eisenhower pre-strike vote proposal, rejected by the Senate and opposed by labor and non-partisan experts.

Tougher Law

The government-conducted vote, as approved by the House group,

calls for a secret vote 10 days before a walkout begins — a procedure which experts agreed would insure an increase in the number of strikes.

Disregarding the historic failure of this proposal, the committee toughened up the Presidential approach by requiring that a majority of the workers "eligible to vote" must okay a strike for the walkout to be valid.

The purpose of this requirement is to chalk up every non-voter as voting against the strike. Workers prevented from voting because of illness or any other reason would be officially considered as voting "No."

General Counsel Goldberg said "virtually all the amendments voted to date (by the House Committee) are anti-labor."

"Some are virulently anti-labor," he said. "In toto, they would make Taft-Hartley worse, far worse, than at present."

Earlier the House committee had tossed out the present T-H formula for dealing with so-called national emergency strikes and substituted a new formula which Chairman McConnell said was a "flexible approach."

Stripped of its window dressing, the McConnell proposal turned out to be more completely anti-union than the present Taft-Hartley section.

While the law says the President would take steps in dealing with a so-called national emergency, the McConnell key proposal would be an indefinite injunction prohibiting a strike. Under Taft-Hartley, there is an 80-day limit on such injunctions.

CIO leaders say the only way to improve the Taft-Hartley Act is to repeal it! Let your Congressman know where YOU stand. Write today!

Seven points prove clearly the anti-labor character of the Taft-Hartley amendments being pushed through the House Labor Committee. CIO General Counsel Arthur J. Goldberg detailed these seven points as follows:

1. "Government by injunction. You have restored government by injunction in its most obnoxious form." He said the amendments would wipe out the Norris-La-Guardia anti-injunction act and "restore old and vicious abuses," including the "quickie injunction" obtained by private employers.

In converting injunctions in "national emergency" situations from 80 days to indefinite duration, Goldberg said the committee has "given away the right to strike" in these cases "without giving the workers any recourse for redress of their grievances."

2. "Government strike votes . . . This proposal only reflects the illusion and the hope that a wedge can be driven between union leadership and union membership . . ."

3. "Captive audience . . . The whole American concept of free speech—fair opportunity to reply—is denied by this process."

4. "Restricting the right to strike. . . . No responsible person welcomes a strike—but all responsible people agree that the preservation of the right to strike is essential to our free society."

5. "Dismantling of the Labor Board . . . For the board, you would substitute law suits in the federal courts. Obviously, workers cannot afford the expense or stand the delays of court litigation. On the other hand, wealthy employers can easily use such litigation to harass unions."

6. "Other anti-union restriction. . . . Your proposals in these matters represent an extreme interference with free collective bargaining."

7. "State anti-labor laws." Goldberg noted that the committee is considering legislation that would permit state anti-labor laws to supersede the federal laws, warned:

"You are, therefore, planning to place labor unions in double jeopardy . . . contrary to our whole constitutional concept of supremacy of federal law in this field of labor relations in interstate commerce — an area of acknowledged federal competence and supremacy."

HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence (including military leave) for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office within 30 days from the end of the month in which you leave the store.

If you, or a member of your family covered by the Health Plan, enters the hospital you MUST call on the Union office for claim forms immediately on entering or as soon as possible thereafter.

Protect yourself — protect your family — protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time!

MAY

1954

XUM

DA-CT Wins Upgrading

A grievance filed by the DA-CT Floor Committee forced Macy's to re-examine one of its job reviews and won an upgrading from "Good" to "Excellent" and retroactive payment of whatever merit increase may be due.

The problem arose when Sylvia Bilsky, who had been promoted to her CT Figurer's job just six months ago, was rated as "Good" although the excellence of her work was generally recognized.

Both the Floor Committee and Sylvia herself lodged their protests with Executive Supervisor Friedberg.

The head of the Controller's office, Mr. Gribbon, after a study of the facts, replied that:

"The job review rating was based on the employee's average for the entire period (6 months) she was on the job. The supervisor pointed out that her production had improved considerably each month as she gained experience, for the last three months, and that her production was rated Excellent. On the basis of these facts we are considering her first three months to be a period of apprenticeship, and therefor have recommended to the Job Review Coordinator that the factor 'amount of work' be changed from Good to Excellent."

Sylvia and Floor Committee members Irene Barrow, Mildred Kaplonski and Frances Caputo hailed the decision as "further proof of the effectiveness of the grievance machinery when a complaint is supported by the facts."

You Can Be Proud to Wear a LOCAL 1-S UNION BUTTON Get Yours Today! Only 50 cents At the Union Office

15 Years of Progress

(Continued from page 1)

Step by steady step our Union grew and its list of gains lengthened. If one single thing must be pointed to as a source of strength, it would have to be the dynamic unity that has spurred on the growth and the constant seeking of still higher pay and better working conditions.

Our Local 1-S, and that means every one of its members, has much to be proud of. Our wages and working conditions are still the envy of every other department store worker in the city. It was we who pioneered in the negotiating of a health plan. It was we who won the very first pension plan. It was we who have won the shortest waiting period and the highest benefits for workers on sick leave.

Yes, the list is long—and we are justly proud. But our work is by no means done. In this period of high prices we must still press our fight for a living wage. In this time of growing insecurity, we must push on for even stronger guarantees of job protection.

There are new and sinister social and economic forces that challenge and threaten our hard-won gains. As we fought, in our earlier days, for price control and rent control and for freedom from fear and want, so too must we fight today.

Fifteen years after its founding our Union is bigger and stronger than ever. We are better able to face the problems which confront us. We have waged battles against depression and unemployment. We know that labor can force from government a program of work and dignity for all. All we need is a unity of purpose—and a will to do the job.

We have fought for fifteen years with a Macy's that has always been reluctant to yield to our just demands. And for fifteen years we have scored victory after victory, with more to come.

On this fifteenth anniversary of the signing of our first contract let us all draw new strength and inspiration from our past, for this strength and confidence is the material with which we will fashion an ever better future.

New Members Risk Loss For Not Attending Class

New members who have failed to attend the New Members Class and have therefore not received their Local 1-S membership card risk the loss of Union benefits, Education Director Dick Pastor cautioned.

Participation in the class is a Constitutional requirement for membership in the Union and, unless specifically excused for good cause, every applicant for membership must attend.

While the main objective of the class is to acquaint the new member with both his rights and responsibilities it also gives the newcomer the opportunity to ask whatever questions he may have.

The class meets every Tuesday evening at the Union office promptly at 6:30 P.M. All those who paid their initiation fee two weeks or more ago must be present at the New Members Class no later than Tuesday, May 11th.

1-S HEALTH PLANS SAVED MEMBERS NEARLY \$300,000 DURING 1953

Members of Local 1-S saved a total of \$295,314.39 in the year of 1953, according to figures just released by President Sam Kovenetsky.

In that period of time the Union's Health and Hospital Plan paid \$217,415 for 12,017 days spent in hospitals by 1,348 members or their husbands or wives and children under 18 years of age.

During the same twelve month period Local 1-S paid \$77,899.39 to 1576 members towards the cost of in-hospital medical and surgical care, or at-home or in-office surgical care only.

Those members or their immediate family who availed themselves of the services of the Union's medical panel for in-hospital surgical care found that the check they received from the Union was payment in full for the surgeon.

Those who used their own surgeon received insurance checks that generally covered a substantial part of the bill.

While average figures fail to show that many Union members received benefits exceeding one

thousand dollars, it is nevertheless interesting to look at the figures.

On the average, the 1576 members who received checks for medical and surgical care each got \$49.50.

The 1348 members who were hospitalized received benefits which averaged \$161.15. Thus, the typical member who received his medical or surgical care while in the hospital got an average of \$210.65, or the equivalent of more than an extra four dollars a week for every week of the year!

Said President Sam Kovenetsky, "The record of our Union's Health Plan stands firmly on its accomplishments. It has provided the financial aid and comfort that so many of our members have needed."

"Just as important as what the Health Plan has already done is what it stands ready to do. Our Plan is at the beck and call of all who need it. And right behind this outstanding insurance is our contractual Sick Leave Plan, plus our doctor panel and our Blood Bank. Combined, they represent the best protection a person could hope to have."

Steward Meeting Calendar

Food, Packing, Supply, Alteration & Repair	May 10	6:45 PM
Receiving, Housekeeping, Pass. Elevators	May 17	6:45 PM
2nd, 3rd, 4th Floors	2nd Wednesday of every month	7:00 PM
ASD	1st Tuesday of every month	6:15 PM
Controllors	1st Wednesday of every month	6:15 PM
PAC	1st Wednesday of every month	7:00 PM
Ad., Display, BofS, Comp.	1st Thursday of every month	6:15 PM
PAC	3rd Wednesday of every month	7:00 PM
DA	2nd Tuesday of every month	6:15 PM

PERSONALS

FOR RENT—Saltire, Fire Island, 4 bedrooms, 2 sleeping porches, fireplace, electric kitchen. Ocean and bay bathing. Supervised play for children. Tennis. Reasonable by month or season. Phone RO 6-1556.

WANTED—Desperately need 3 or 4 room apartment. Any location. Please phone CY 4-3772.

FOR SALE—Crosley Shelvador in good condition, \$50. Miss O'Neil, 524—39th Street, Brooklyn. Between 6-9 PM or Sunday.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

MEDICAL PLAN—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

BLOOD BANK—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

TO THE EDITOR

BENEFITS GAINED

I cannot thank you enough for the benefits gained through the Local 1-S Health Plan and for the marvelous doctors recommended by our Union.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Doctor Roberts for his advice during my recent emergency. Also to Doctor Lawrence Essenson for his wonderful care and advice while I was at the Madison Avenue Hospital and during my convalescing period.

To my friends throughout the store — especially my department — and the Welfare Board for their cheerful cards, letters, phone calls and personal greetings which gave me much pleasure and comfort.

I am back to work, with my mind at ease — No bills to pay, thanks to the officers of Local 1-S who have made all of this possible.

God bless you all.

Gratefully yours,
Kay Santore, CMC

DEEP APPRECIATION

It is with deep appreciation that I write to thank you for the great benefits I received from our Union Health Plan.

I had an unfortunate accident which made it necessary for me to be in the hospital for ten days

— the cost of which was entirely taken care of by the Health Plan.

I want also to thank our Welfare Board for the lovely card and book they sent me. And many, many thanks to my dear friends from several departments who were so wonderfully thoughtful and kind to me during my stay in the hospital.

And I want especially to thank Anne Berman who came to me late at night and drove me in her car to the hospital where, after much telephoning she had secured a bed for me.

It was wonderful to be so well cared for and I am very grateful and proud to be a member of a Union like Local 1-S.

Sincerely,
Grace Smith, 117 Dept.

MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT

Thank you very much for your kind help and for referring me to one of the Union doctors, Jacob Katz, who gave me much encouragement as to my foot and back condition.

I also want to thank Administrator Tom Raffaele for his guidance and calming influence when I did not know which way to turn upon learning I was an emergency hos-

pital case. However, now — after observation, much pain and anxiety, I've learned what my trouble is — which is not serious but could have been.

I'm a poor patient, for it has been my fortune not to have lost more than one day for sickness during my business career of sixteen years.

Again, I want to thank you and the Union — Local 1-S.

Very truly yours,
Edith Ward-Bonnee, 12 Dept.

PROMPTNESS

Thank you for your promptness in sending me the hospitalization blank which I received the next day after calling you.

Thanks, too, for your lovely Get Well card and the book, which I enjoyed immensely during my convalescence.

Many, many thanks.
Jeanette Schmidt, 15 Dept.

SINCEREST THANKS

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Local 1-S for their kindness to me with Health Plan.

I am proud to belong to a Union such as ours.

I am yours, sincerely,
Bessie Turner, 204 Dept.

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